

Subject 988 lifeline centers; 988 telecommunications and prepaid wireless fees

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Overview

This bill requires the commissioner of health to administer the designation and oversight of a lifeline center or centers to answer 988 contacts from individuals in Minnesota. It also establishes a 988 telecommunications fee and a prepaid wireless 988 fee to fund maintaining and improving the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline and maintaining a statewide suicide prevention crisis system.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	988 suicide and crisis lifeline.
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Adds § 145.561. Requires the commissioner of health to administer the designation and oversight of a lifeline center or centers to answer 988 contacts from individuals in Minnesota. Establishes a 988 special revenue account into which 988 fees are deposited and appropriated to the commissioner of health to maintain and improve the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline, to maintain a statewide suicide prevention crisis system, and for other allowable uses.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for this section: commissioner, department, lifeline center, 988 or 988 hotline, 988 administrator, 988 contact, Veterans Crisis Line.

Subd. 2. 988 hotline; lifeline centers. Requires the commissioner of health to administer the designation and oversight of a lifeline center or network of lifeline centers to answer 988 contacts from individuals in Minnesota. Requires the designated lifeline center or centers to have agreements with the 988 administrator and the Department of Health to participate in the lifeline center network and to meet other requirements. Requires the commissioner to use rulemaking to allow information sharing and communication between crisis and emergency response systems, and to work with other crisis networks to ensure consistent public messaging about 988 services. Requires the commissioner to annually report to the legislature on usage of the 988 hotline.

Section	Description
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Subd. 3. 988 special revenue account. Establishes a 988 special revenue account in the special revenue fund to maintain a statewide 988 suicide prevention crisis system. Provides that the 988 special revenue account shall consist of a 988 telecommunications fee, a prepaid wireless 988 fee, transfers of state money into the account, grants and gifts, interest and other earnings of the account, and money from any other source deposited or transferred into the account. Lists allowable uses of money in the account, and appropriates money in the account to the commissioner for these purposes. Requires the commissioner to submit annual reports to the legislature and the Federal Communications Commission on deposits into and expenditures from the account.

Subd. 4. 988 telecommunications fee. Requires the commissioner to impose a monthly statewide fee on each wireline, wireless, or IP-enabled voice service to support the statewide 988 suicide prevention and crisis system. Requires the fee to be between 12 cents and 25 cents per month beginning January 1, 2024, to be collected by the service provider and transferred to the commissioner of public safety for deposit in the 988 special revenue account. Requires the fee amount to be adjusted as needed to provide for continuous operation of the lifeline centers and 988 hotline, volume increases, and maintenance; and requires the commissioner of health to annually report to the Federal Communications Commission on revenue generated by the fee.

Subd. 5. 988 fee for prepaid wireless telecommunications services. Provides that prepaid wireless telecommunications services are subject to the prepaid wireless 988 fee, not the 988 telecommunications fee.

2 Fee imposed.

Amends § 403.161, subd. 1. Amends a subdivision imposing fees on retail transactions for prepaid wireless telecommunications services, to impose a prepaid wireless 988 fee on each transaction, in the amount of the monthly charge for the 988 telecommunications fee.

3 Fee collected.

Amends § 403.161, subd. 3. Requires prepaid wireless 988 fees to be collected by the seller from the consumer for each retail transaction in the state for prepaid wireless telecommunications services.

4 Remittance.

Amends § 403.161, subd. 5. Provides that prepaid wireless 988 fees are the liability of the consumer purchasing prepaid wireless telecommunications services.

Section	Description
5	<p>Exclusion for calculating other charges.</p> <p>Amends § 403.161, subd. 6. Prohibits prepaid wireless 988 fees from being included in the base used to calculate other taxes, fees, or surcharges imposed by a governmental entity.</p>
6	<p>Fee changes.</p> <p>Amends § 403.161, subd. 7. Requires the prepaid wireless 988 fee to be increased or reduced upon any change made to the 988 telecommunications fee.</p>
7	<p>Remittance.</p> <p>Amends § 403.162, subd. 1. Requires prepaid wireless 988 fees collected by sellers of prepaid wireless telecommunications services to be submitted to the commissioner of revenue according to the procedures for submission of the general sales and use tax.</p>
8	<p>Seller's fee retention.</p> <p>Amends § 403.162, subd. 2. Allows a seller of prepaid wireless telecommunications services to retain three percent of the prepaid wireless 988 fees collected from consumers.</p>
9	<p>Fees deposited.</p> <p>Amends § 403.162, subd. 5. Requires the commissioner of revenue to deposit the proportion of collected fees attributable to the prepaid wireless 988 fee in the 988 special revenue account. Allows the commissioner of revenue to deduct a percentage of collected fees, to be used for the commissioner's direct costs of collecting and remitting prepaid wireless 988 fees.</p>
10	<p>Appropriation.</p> <p>Appropriates \$8,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the operation of 988 lifeline centers in Minnesota under section 145.561. Provides the general fund base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2026 is \$0.</p>



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